

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3727

AMEMBASSY LISBON

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 4101

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BR, PO, XA

SUBJECT: OAU REQUEST FOR BRAZILIAN PRESSURE ON PORTUGAL

REF: BRASILIA 4061

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, THE WELL-INFORMED MINISTER SOUTO MAIOR, CHIEF OF CABINET OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, COMMENTED AT LENGTH ON OAU REQUEST FOR BRAZILIAN PRESSURE ON PORTUGAL. SOUTO MAIOR STATED THAT THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY PRESS RELEASE OF JUNE 4 WAS PERFECTLY CONSISTENT WITH GOB POLICY OF NOT BECOMING INVOLVED UNLESS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED TO DO SO BY BOTH SIDES. FURTHER, HE INSISTED IT WAS ALSO CONSISTENT WITH BRAZILIAN POLICY OF ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH BLACK AFRICA AND PORTUGAL. IN HIS VIEW A REQUEST WAS RECEIVED FROM THE OAU, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ONE SIDE TO THE DISPUTE, AND IT WAS TRANSMITTED TO PORTUGAL, THE OTHER SIDE, WITHOUT ANY VALUE JUDGMENTS ON THE PART OF THE GOB.

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2. SOUTO MAIOR THOUGHT IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT

PORTUGAL WILL RESPOND FAVORABLY TO THE TERMS OF THE OAU NOTE WHICH ASKS THAT "BRAZIL, AS A FRIEND OF PORTUGAL, ASSERT ITS INFLUENCE WITH THE NEW PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT IN FAVOR OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA AND THE RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA BISSAU." HE SAW LITTLE PROSPECT FOR A MEDIATING ROLE FOR BRAZIL AND ATTRIBUTED THE BRAZILIAN PRESS SPECULATION TO "JOURNALISTIC EXUBERANCE." BRAZIL, NEVERTHELESS, WAS PREPARED TO COOPERATE IN FINDING SOLUTIONS IN ANY WAY DEEMED ADVISABLE BY THE TWO SIDES AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS OWN LIMITED RESOURCES NOT TO MENTION ITS LIMITED INFLUENCE IN THE AREA.

3. SOUTO MAIOR SPECIFICALLY DENIED THAT THERE WAS ANY THOUGHT ON THE PART OF BRAZIL OF PRE-EMPTING THE FRENCH OFFER OF GOOD OFFICES. HE DID, HOWEVER, QUALIFY THE FRENCH ATTITUDE AS "SELF-SEEKING" CONSIDERING FRANCE'S OWN POSITION IN AFRICA AND, THUS, VITIATED IN ITS INTENT. BRAZIL, HE SAID, WOULD CONTINUE ITS LOW-KEY POLICY OF KEEPING LINES OPEN TO BOTH SIDES BUT HE COULD PERCEIVE NO KISSINGER-LIKE ROLE FOR FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA SINCE BRAZIL'S INTERESTS WERE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE AREA, BRAZILIAN INFLUENCE AND POWER WERE SEVERELY LIMITED AND BOTH SIDES WERE ALREADY IN THE PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION. BRAZIL WAS AWAITING WITH INTEREST THE ARRIVAL OF THE JUNTA OF NATIONAL SALVATION MEMBER, GALVAO DE MELO.
CRIMMINS

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